

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-02 A-01 SY-05  
USSS-00 OPR-02 /045 W  
-----113161 081247Z /64  
R 072030Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 4592/1

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: JM, EAGR  
SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER TO OPEN JAMAICAN  
ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED A LETTER OF INVITATION  
FOR MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT DENBIGH, JAMAICA, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7,  
1978. THE LETTER, DATED MAY 24TH, BUT NOT RECEIVED  
UNTIL YESTERDAY, IS BEING FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY  
AIR POUCH CARE OF ARA/CAR, MR. SURBER. IT IS QUOTED IN  
FULL BELOW. EMBASSY COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

DEAR MRS. CARTER,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ADDRESS YOU ON THE SUBJECT OF  
OUR ANNUAL NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN JAMAICA, AND  
WISH THAT YOU BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE  
EVENT THIS YEAR. THIS OPENING CEREMONY TAKES PLACE ON  
MONDAY, 7TH AUGUST, AT 10:30 A.M.

WE HAVE A PERMANENT SHOWGROUND FOR SUCH OCCASIONS -  
A SITE OF SOME 82 ACRES - ON WHICH ARE MODERN BUILDINGS  
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AND FACILITIES. PHOTOGRAPHS SENT WITH THIS LETTER  
GIVE AN IDEA OF ITS APPEARANCE ON A SHOW DAY.

OUR JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY TO WHICH THE  
SHOWGROUND BELONGS AND UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES ANNUAL  
SHOWS TAKE PLACE, IS A VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF  
FARMERS WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 80,000 AND UPWARDS.

THESE ARE TO BE LOCATED IN 900 BRANCH ORGANIZATIONS  
DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND.

PUBLICATIONS ACCOMPANYING, GIVE AN IDEA OF THE  
J. A. S. HISTORY, AIMS AND OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARGARET OF GREAT  
BRITAIN ON ONE OCCASION WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A FUNCTION  
ON OUR SHOWGROUND, AND WITH HER GRACIOUS CONSENT THE  
MAIN ROAD ON THE SITE HAS BEEN NAMED "THE PRINCESS  
MARGARET HIGHWAY."

DIGNITARIES WITH WORLD STANDING, WHO HAVE  
HONOURED US BY OFFICIALLY OPENING SHOWS OF OUR IN THE  
PAST INCLUDE: -

1. SENOR JOSE FIGUERES,  
PRESIDENT,  
COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT,

2. SIR HENRY PLUMB,  
PRESIDENT,  
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (N.F.U.) ENGLAND & WALES.

3. DR. JOHN EKLUND,  
PRESIDENT,  
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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL  
(A.C.D.I.),  
WHOSE HEADQUARTERS ARE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

4. SENOR CARLOS AQUINO,  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE,  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

5. SENOR MUNROZ MORIN, (SIC)  
HEAD OF PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT.

6. MR. JEAN DELEAU,  
FORMER PRESIDENT,  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS  
(I.F.A.P.)  
WITH HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS.

7. LORD HAILES,  
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE FORMER FEDERATION OF THE WEST  
INDIES.

8. THE HON. SIKA STEVENS,

HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE.

ON ONE OCCASION THE SHOW WAS HONOURED BY "GREETINGS" FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP OF GREAT BRITAIN, DUKE OF EDINGBURH, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE COMMONWEALTH. HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO BE WITH US AT THE 1977 CONFERENCE OF THIS R.A.S.C., HELD HERE IN JAMAICA IN PART OVER THE PERIOD 28TH NOVEMBER TO 4TH DECEMBER, 1977. OUR SOCIETY WAS HOST. THE FIRST PART OF THAT CONFERENCE FROM NOVEMBER 16 TO 27, TOOK PLACE IN CANADA.

INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS REGARDING THAT CONFERENCE AND SENT HERewith, MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.  
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WE HASTEN TO MENTION THAT TWO OF OUR NATIONAL HEROES - THE RT. HON. SIR ALEXANDER BUSTAMANTE AND THE RT. EXCELLENT MR. NORMAN WASHINGTON MANLEY HAVE OPENED THE SHOW AS LEADERS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. THESE SHOWS HAVE ALSO BEEN OFFICIALLY OPENED ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS BY PRIME MINISTERS IN OFFICE AT THE TIME, THESE INCLUDING THE LATER SIR DONALD SANGSTER, THE RT. HON. HUGH SHEARER AND THE PRESENT OFFICE-HOLDER, MR. MICHAEL MANLEY. OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE FREQUENTLY SAT WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT OUR OFFICIAL OPENINGS.

THE SHOW THIS YEAR IS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE, AND TO OUR MINDS A MOST APPROPRIATE OCCASION ON WHICH TO SEEK THE HONOUR OF OUR HAVING SUCH A PERSONALITY AS YOURSELF FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING. YOU HONOURED US WITH A VISIT TO OUR COUNTRY LAST YEAR, AS PART OF YOUR GOODWILL MISSION ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER, YOUR HUSBAND, THROUGH SOME CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

YOU SHOWED ON THAT VISIT TO OUR ISLAND, A MOST WARM INTEREST IN OUR PROBLEMS, AND STATEMENTS ON YOUR RETURN HOME WERE CLEARLY INDICATIVE OF THIS. ALL THIS HAS MADE US VERY HOPEFUL THAT YOU WILL ASSIST FURTHER BY CONSENTING TO OPEN OUR 1978 DENBIGH SHOW.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, OUR NATION IS NOW IN THE GRIPS OF A CHALLENGING ECONOMIC SITUATION. A KEY TO SUCCESS IN GRAPPLING WITH THIS WILL BE WHAT WE AS A PEOPLE DO REGARDING PRODUCTION, AND IN NO OTHER FIELD AS MUCH AS IN AGRICULTURE.

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-02 A-01 SY-05  
USSS-00 OPR-02 /045 W  
-----113139 081248Z /64

R 072030Z JUN 78  
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A FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS NOW BEING PREPARED  
TO GIVE POINT AND DIRECTION TO THIS EXTRA URGENT  
PRODUCTION EFFORT.

VALUED MORAL SUPPORT FROM A FRIEND FROM OVERSEAS  
SUCH AS YOURSELF, BELONGING TO A NEIGHBOUR TO WHOM WE  
ARE SO STRONGLY LINKED ECONOMICALLY AS WELL AS IN WORLD  
HISTORY, WOULD GREATLY ASSIST IN GIVING PURPOSE AND  
SCOPE TO THIS DRIVE. HENCE THIS REQUEST FROM THE ENTIRE  
JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, ITS BOARD OF MANAGEMENT  
AND MYSELF. SIGNED COURTNEY L. FLETCHER, PRESIDENT.

END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: DENDBIGH, WHERE THE ANNUAL FAIR IS HELD, IS  
LOCATED IN THE GEOGRAPHIC CENTER OF JAMAICA AND ABOUT AN  
HOUR'S TRAIN RIDE FROM KINGSTON. THE TIMING OF THE EVENT  
IN EARLY AUGUST IS IN COMMEMORATION OF JAMAICAN FREEDOM  
FROM SLAVERY. THE FAIR WAS FIRST HELD IN 1953. THE JAS,  
WHICH SPONSORS THE SHOW, HAS THE STATUS OF A STATUTORY  
BODY OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE BASIC CONCEPT OF THE SHOW  
IS TO OFFER TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE A KNOWLEDGE OF HOW  
AGRICULTURE IS FUNCTIONING IN THE ISLAND. IT HAS THE  
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USUAL AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS OF CROPS, DOMESTIC AND  
HOUSEHOLD SCIENCES, TRACTORS, ETC. IT IS A SERIOUS

FAIR AND PROBABLY THE MOST CEREMONIOUS AGRICULTURAL  
EVENT IN JAMAICA. IT USUALLY HAS A TOTAL ATTENDANCE  
OVER THE THREE-DAY PERIOD OF ABOUT 80,000 PEOPLE AND  
RECEIVES WIDE JAMAICA PRESS COVERAGE. THE ORGANIZERS  
OF THE SHOW ARE DEFINITELY PRO-U.S. AND LAST YEAR  
WHEN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE ATTENDED,  
THEIR PRESENCE WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE MEDIA.  
IRVING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVITATIONS, AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KINGST04592  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780239-0733  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwrm.tel  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 653f5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2457769  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INVITATION FOR MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER TO OPEN JAMAICAN ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW  
**TAGS:** EAGR, JM, (CARTER, ROSALYNN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/653f5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014